

Philadelphia, 12th Oct. 1792

Dear Sir

It is with great pleasure that I forward to you the inclosed volume of the transactions of the Agricultural Society of New York, which was sent to me, in order to present to the Philosophical Society of this City, by my friend Doctor Mitchell, in consequence of my having inclosed a copy of the queries respecting the Hessian fly, to him, & requesting his answers thereon. I had known that he had paid particular attention to the history & effects of that destructive insect, and therefore expected that he would be able to communicate some important information thereon. — In a letter which I received from him in August last he informs me that "a summary account of my labours and their result on the subject of the Hessian fly, terminates my address to our Agricultural Society; the particulars in detail are related better by Mr. Havens, than by any other person whose account I have seen. His observations are in the main similar to my own, though we had some difference in opinion, about the number of generations, the insect went thro' in a Season —"

"In addition to what I had heretofore observed respecting

"This destructive insect, I remarked in the early part of the
 "Summer 1792; That the insect did not confine itself to the
 "lower joint, but had in many instances invaded the "second",
 "and nested in considerable numbers without the sheath of it. -
 "In one case I saw the worms on the head, among the awlets
 of bearded wheat, but this was a case where the spike had
 "scarcely protruded beyond the investing foliage." —

My friend can justly claim of the honor of the discovery,
 from all I have heard, of the fly being an entire American
 production, which I have lately heard has been thought due, &
 has accordingly been claimed by another person, who, whatever his
 merit may be is certainly not entitled to the praise of the present
 discovery, as it was communicated to me by letter in January
 last, & long before the person alluded to, had made known to
 his ideas respecting the country, to which this insect belonged. —

I am with great regard your very obedient
 & very humble servant,
 James Mease.

Hble Tho: Jefferson Esq^r
 Secretary of State. —